

**To:** James K. Anderson[JAnderson@lincoln.ne.gov]  
**From:** CyberScoop  
**Sent:** Mon 2/4/2019 5:12:21 PM  
**Subject:** How DHS secured the Super Bowl

WhatsApp gets a face-lift. Pentagon too slow to plug holes.

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MONDAY

February 4, 2019

*The Super Bowl was a big test for DHS. Advocates call on Congress to stop cybercrime. And WhatsApp adds biometric authentication for some users. This is CyberScoop for Monday, February 4.*

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**SECURING THE SUPER BOWL:** While the Rams and Patriots did battle at the Super Bowl, a parallel, perhaps more entertaining, contest was going on in which the feds tried to keep hackers out of Atlanta's computer networks. The Department of Homeland Security worked with stadium officials for over a year to prep for the big game, and dispatched cybersecurity official at nine operational centers to monitor threats. One of the largest DHS cybersecurity preparations for a Super Bowl to date culminated in a 100-person tabletop exercise with city, state and stadium officials, among others, days before the game. "We really want everything to run smoothly," DHS's Klint Walker told CyberScoop on Friday. [Sean Lyngaas has the story.](#)

**WE COULD USE SOME HELP OVER HERE:** Despite robust U.S. efforts to prosecute foreign hackers, America's war on cybercrime is falling short, according to the think tank Third Way. Backed by former U.S. cybersecurity officials, Third Way executives last week pitched their legislative ideas for cracking down on cybercrime to congressional staffers. The group wants the U.S. government develop clear metrics for assessing the effectiveness of its anti-cybercrime efforts and, in some cases, to increase funding for programs that help other

governments in the fight. “I look forward to working with law enforcement officials and experts to find ways to expand and enhance our cyber capabilities,” Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., whose office hosted the briefing, told CyberScoop. [Sean has more details.](#)

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## EVENT

**ANNOUNCING DC CYBERWEEK 2019:** This SXSW-style city-wide festival drives thousands of the most influential cybersecurity leaders to Washington, DC for one week to exchange best practices, collaborate and find ways to achieve common goals. [JOIN THE ACTION.](#)

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**WHATSAPP GIVES SECURITY A FACE-LIFT:** WhatsApp is adding new privacy features for many of its users, as the security community keeps a close eye on how its parent company, Facebook, plans to merge the globally popular messaging app with other products. The update, version 2.19.20, allows iPhone owners to unlock WhatsApp using Face ID or Touch ID. This layer of security applies to the entire app — rather than on a chat-by-chat basis — and can be enabled through iPhone’s settings page. By adding biometric authentication, WhatsApp is building on its already respected end-to-end encryption protocol. The methodology was developed by Open Whisper Systems, the software organization behind the widely-praised messaging app Signal. But even end-to-end encryption can’t protect users’ messages if someone has physical control of their device, a problem this update should help solve. [Jeff Stone has the report.](#)

**SLOW AND STEADY LOSES THE RACE:** The Pentagon’s cybersecurity is improving — but not quickly enough to keep pace with the growing capabilities of America’s adversaries, according to the annual report from the Department of Defense’s chief weapons and systems tester. The DOD Office of the Director of Operational Test & Evaluation’s 2018 report keyed in on traditional weapons and operational systems’ dependence on software as a key trend that “will continue as more complex and capable software platforms and algorithms make their way into the battlespace.” And with that, comes the need to defend and “test all systems having data exchanges for the resilience to complete missions in a cyber-contested environment.” DOT&E performed a number of such tests in 2018 and found generally that “there were an increasing number of instances where the cyber Red Teams employed during DOT&E assessments experienced greater difficulty in penetrating network defenses or maintaining previously acquired accesses,” Director Robert Behler wrote in the annual

report. [FedScoop's Billy Mitchell has the story.](#)

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**SF CONSIDERS A FACIAL RECOGNITION FIRST:** A San Francisco supervisor is proposing legislation that would make it the first city in the United States to ban all local government agencies from using facial recognition technology. The bill would prohibit all city agencies, including law enforcement, from using the technology and any information gleaned from it. It also places checks on the ability of city agencies to procure “surveillance technology,” placing it in line with policies of nearby Oakland and Berkeley, as well as the Bay Area Rapid Transit. Facial-recognition technology has raised concerns not just for the security of the sensitive data it tracks, but in how it can potentially be used to discriminate. Research from the FBI has found that some demographic groups “are more susceptible to errors in the face matching process.” Still, the technology’s use has grown recently, including at airports in Washington, Orlando, and Seattle. Groups like the American Civil Liberties Union have also called on local governments to stop using facial-recognition products like Rekognition, which is sold by Amazon. [StateScoop's Ryan Johnston has more details.](#)

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## TWEET OF THE DAY

Fyre didn't promise anybody Lambos, though.

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